

# Agricultural Events COVID-19 Requirements

## Summary of February 15, 2021 changes:

- Clarifies that food service is allowed for participants only and must comply with guidance for restaurants.

## Summary of February 1, 2021 changes:

- New Phase 1 and Phase 2 requirements detailed
- Safety and health requirements updated at end of the document

## Included Here:

- For purposes of this guidance, an “agricultural event” includes livestock and horse exhibitions/shows/sales/auctions, companion animal (dog, cats, rabbits, etc.) shows, or any substantially similar event.

## Not included here:

- Agritourism such as commercial enterprise that links agricultural production and/or processing with tourism in order to attract visitors onto a farm, ranch, or other agricultural business for the purposes of entertaining and/or educating the visitors and generating income for the farm, ranch, or business owner.

Agricultural events are permitted to operate, provided all requirements in this document are met. Each event must adopt a written procedure for operations at least as protective as the specific requirements outlined below and complies with all employee safety and health requirements.

Event venues and staff must ensure strict adherence to all measures established by the Governor’s guidance, the Department of Labor & Industries (L&I), Coronavirus (COVID-19) Prevention: General Requirements <https://lni.wa.gov/forms-publications/F414-164-000.pdf>, and the Washington State Department of Health Workplace and Employer Resources & Recommendations <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Coronavirus/Workplace> (DOH).

## For Phase 1 and Phase 2:

### General Event Requirements

1. All events must require participants to use cloth face coverings at a minimum.
2. Require pre-registration (if applicable) to reduce in-person interaction on site.
3. Require all staff and any participant including exhibitors, sellers/auctioneers, buyers, competitors, judges, and veterinarians, to stay home if they are sick.
4. Limit access to only necessary participants. No spectators, vendors, guests or visitors.
5. Participants that are minors may be accompanied by one adult.
6. Increase distance and limit the duration of contact (no more than 15 minutes) between exhibitors, visitors, judges, veterinarians, staff, and anyone else participating the event.
7. Allow for social distancing and avoid high densities of people when designing exhibits and layout of the grounds. Stagger exhibit/show/sale/auction times and use sign-up sheets with specific time assignments for use of common animal interaction areas. Examples of areas where

congregation should be limited or scheduled include in- and out-gates, warm-up rings, grooming stations, wash racks, vet check areas, exercise lots, and restrooms.

8. Whenever possible, events should be held outdoors or in outdoor arenas with optimal ventilation. Outdoor events are limited to 50% capacity.
9. Events held indoors are limited to 50% capacity or up to 50 participants at one time (not including staff) whichever is less. This may necessitate events to be scheduled in stages.
10. Encourage participants observe strict biosecurity. Clean and disinfect any equipment from home before bringing them to the event and again before they take them back home.
11. Discourage the sharing of items/equipment that are difficult to disinfect between participants.
12. Clean and disinfect animal areas between shows or events.
13. Food service is allowed for participants only and must follow the guidance for [restaurants](#).

#### Exhibition Requirements

1. For animals intended for food production, event staff may bring animals together to certify weight, be sold (marketed/auctioned), be sorted by buyer/harvest destination, and be transported to their destination. Limited exhibits may occur for livestock, poultry and rabbits intended for food without food handlers being present during judging. This is to ensure these animals are timely harvested and handled in a manner ensuring product safety and proper animal care, well-being, and quality through to harvest.
2. Limit the number of animals that can be exhibited. This will be determined by the local event organizer and facility offerings (i.e., if your event allows each seller to sell one terminal animal for meat production, they can exhibit one animal in this show format).
3. Schedule exhibit drop-off after entries are received, so participants are staggered on the drop-off day/show. Larger events may have to alternate days so that drop-off and show can occur in one day.
4. A check-in point, before the animal exhibit drop-off point should be in place to ensure that participants are wearing face coverings as they enter this drop off process, and paperwork confirmation can occur at this time.
5. For animals required to be weighed, schedule in advance, to the extent practicable, to eliminate queuing. Minimize number of individuals at each weigh-in.
6. Judges will work with participants one-on-one.

#### Horse and Companion Animal Show Requirements

1. Split classes to limit the number of animals in the show ring to allow for six-foot minimum physical distancing between animal handlers and judges at all times.
2. Limit the number of people and/or animals in a ring to ensure that at least 6 feet is kept between an animal with its handler, and other people and animals including judges. The number of exhibitors and animals that can safely fit in a show ring or exhibit area may limit the number of animals that can be shown at one time.
3. Provide separate entry and exit points for participants so they do not need to pass close together while coming into and going out of the ring.

4. Stagger animal move-in/move-out times to reduce contact between people.
5. Judges should each have separate stations at least six feet apart.
6. Consider a “show-and-go” with animals stalled at a trailer or in a vehicle and leaving immediately after the show if this will not compromise animal welfare (i.e. due to weather conditions such as high temperature and humidity).

### **Employee Safety and Health**

An agricultural event employer, during any phase has a general obligation to keep a safe and healthy facility in accordance with state and federal law and safety and health rules for a variety of workplace hazards. In addition, they must comply with the following COVID-19 worksite-specific safety practices as outlined in Governor Inslee’s “Safe Start – Stay Healthy” Proclamation 20-25 and in accordance with the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries [General Requirements and Prevention Ideas for Workplaces](#) and the Washington State Department of Health Workplace and Employer Resources & Recommendations at <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Coronavirus/workplace>. All events are required to post signage at the entrance to the event requiring participants to use cloth face coverings when inside the event.